been appointed under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, whose functions *inter-alia* include monitoring the implementation of reservation policy in employment and education.

Restoration of Tribal Status to Adivasis in Assam

738. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming up with a bill for restoration of Tribal Status of the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Tribes) in Assam as their counterparts living in West Bengal and Tripura State Tea Industry and villages have been enjoying tribal status since inception of the Constitution; and

(b) whether it is not a Constitutional discrimination to the Adivasis of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342 of the Constitution. The lists of Scheduled Tribes are state specific. The criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are:

(i) indications of primitive traits,

(ii) Distinctive culture,

(iii) Geographical isolation,

(iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and

(v) Backwardness

The proposals of the Government of Assam for inclusion of Tea Garden Labour Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam has been processed as per the approved modalities.

Scheme for Welfare of Tribals in Gujarat

739. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented for welfare of tribals living in forests, State-wise particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribals due to shrinking of forest areas;

(c) whether Government have taken not that some of the tribals are surviving on tree roots and wild grass plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for their upliftment?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally sponsored Schemes/Programmes for the socio-economic development of tribals in all the States/Union Territories, including Gujarat. These Schemes/ Programmes are meant for the welfare of all the tribal people, including those living in forests. There is no separate scheme specifically for the tribal people living in forests or those affected due to shrinking of forest areas.

The schemes of the Ministry relate to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribal people. Some Schemes pertain to ensuing fair prices for minor forest produce and food security, besides the promotion of voluntary efforts in the area of tribal welfare. The list of Schemes/Programmes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being implemented in the country, including Gujarat, is given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) No such incident has been reported to this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Grant-in-Aid to NGOs for Scheduled Tribes including Coaching & Allied Schemes and award for exemplary service.
2. Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas
3. Educational Complex in Law Literacy Pockets
4. Grant-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
5. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups

6. Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporations
7. Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship and Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Tribes Students
8. Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Girls and Boys
9. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
10. Research, Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others
11. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP)
12. Grants-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

Schemes for Chhattisgarh

†740. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes formulated and being implemented in Chhattishgarh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the financial assistance sanctioned, released as well as utilised under these schemes in the State during the said period; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilization of the entire amount given for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No new centrally sponsored scheme has been formulated during the last three years. Following are the centrally sponsored schemes for the welfare of tribals are in force at present for the entire country including Chhattisgarh.

(i) Construction of Boys/Girls Hostels.
(ii) Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.
(iii) Post Matric Scholarship.
(iv) Research and Training-Grant-in-aid to TRIs.
(v) Coaching and Allied Scheme.
(vi) Assistance to State Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations (STDCs)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.